Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0038] on Page 10 of the specification as originally filed with the replacement paragraph set out below.

[0038] Table 1 lists the BET surface areas, pore volume, average pore diameter, of (commercially available) unmodified □-Al_2O_3 and modified Al_2O_3 catalyst supports. Surface area and pore size distribution are obtained on a Micromeritics TriStar 3000 analyzer after degassing the sample at 190°C in flowing nitrogen for five hours. Surface area is determined from ten points in the nitrogen adsorption isotherm between 0.05 and 0.3 relative pressure and calculating the surface area by the standard BET procedure. Pore size distribution is determined from a minimum of 30 points in the nitrogen desorption isotherm and calculated using the BJH model for cylindrical pores. The instrument control and calculations are performed using the TriStar software and are consistent with ASTM D3663-99 "Surface Area of Catalysts and Catalyst Carriers", ASTM D4222-98 "Determination of Nitrogen ~~Adsorption~~ Adsorption and Desorption Isotherms of Catalysts by Static Volumetric Measurements", and ASTM D4641-94 "Calculation of Pore Size Distributions of Catalysts from Nitrogen Desorption Isotherms". The initial surface area of the catalyst is the surface area of the catalyst structure prior to contact of reactant gas. The pore volume of the catalyst (N_2 as adsorptive) is measured and calculated using the method described above. Average pore size (diameter) based on N_2 adsorptive is calculated as 4V/A.

Please replace paragraph [0053] on Page 15 of the specification as originally filed with the replacement paragraph set out below.

[0053] The metal surface ~~area~~ areas per gram of metal were also measured for Examples 1, 2, and 3, and were respectively 16.3, 16.7, and 7.7 m^2/g metal.